Manitoba Anti-Disallowance Association.

WM. HESPELER, *President.*
JOSEPH WOLF, *Vice-President.*
G. A. ELLIOTT, *Recording Secretary.*
C. N. BELL, *Corresponding Secretary.*
G. F. CARRUTHERS, *Treasurer.*

J. H. ASHDOWN,
R. J. WHITLA,
J. H. BROCK,
F. B. ROBERTSON,
J. B. McKILLIGAN,
Executive Committee.

L. M. JONES,
ALEX. McDONALD,
KENNETH MacKENZIE,
GEO. PATTERSON,
ALF. PEARSON.

WINNIPEG, 24th SEPTEMBER, 1887.

Reeve Municipality of

SIR:—

It is the object of certain officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and politicians in sympathy with that Company, to create the impression on the minds of the public of the Dominion and of Great Britain, that the whole agitation existing in this Province on the question of disallowance of railroad charters granted by the Legislature of Manitoba, is confined to the citizens of the City of Winnipeg, and they publicly and through the medium of their subsidized press, are continually reiterating this statement and declaring that the residents of this Province outside of Winnipeg are perfectly satisfied with the monopoly which is

ANTI-DISALLOWANCE.

CONSTITUTION.

We citizens of the Province of Manitoba, irrespective of party politics, hereby agree to form ourselves into an association called The Manitoba Anti-Disallowance Association, for the purpose of opposing the unpolitic, unjust, and tyrannical action of the Dominion Government in disallowing the railway charters enacted by our Local Legislature and supporting the present monopoly of the Canadian Pacific Railway within the old Province of Manitoba; and we hereby pledge ourselves to stand by our Local Government and Legislature in every effort of theirs to break through that monopoly; and we resolve to use all justifiable means to resist the present invasion of the rights intended to be secured to every Province of the Dominion by the British North America Act; and we hereby affirm that:

"The policy of disallowance of local charters for the construction of railways within the limits of the old Province of Manitoba retards the national progress not only of Manitoba and the Northwest but of the Dominion at large."

"It discourages immigration."

"It prevents the natural development of trade between the Northwest and the other Provinces of the Dominion and in the Northwest itself, to which national development of trade competition in railway carriage between all the Provinces is essentially necessary."

It is therefore not a policy of progress, but a policy of retardation, injurious alike to Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and the rest of the Dominion, and as such is inconsistent with the spirit of our constitution, and being in no way required by the terms of the contract with the C.P.

Winnipeg Sept 1887

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If from any cause, it is impossible, at an early date, to get your council together, we beg to suggest that *you personally* give an endorsation of the platform presented, and that after having done so you organize a a branch association and get many true friends of Manitoba to sign the constitution, sending us as soon as possible a list of the members. The by-laws, of course, can be altered to suit the circumstances of your local case, and it is presumed you would not require any entrance fee as is required by the Winnipeg Branch which has printing and other expenses to meet.

It is essentially necessary that no time be lost in making the organization large and influential so that its strength when published in Canada and Great Britain will counteract the baneful effect of Sir George Stephen's misleading and untruthful statements.

Our enemies are crafty and are not hesitating to adopt any means to give a false color to our actions, Sir George Stephen deliberately misquoting extracts from the wording of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's charter, in his attempt to mislead the shareholders of the Company, and his subsidized press are daily grinding out falsehoods. We must therefore take every honorable means within our reach to expose their infamous methods, by giving the facts to the world.

Your kind assistance is therefore urgently requested by the Council of this Association, who feel assured that you fully realize the gravity of the situation and the necessity for prompt action.

By direction of the Association,

CHAS. N. BELL,
Corresponding Secretary.

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As examples of the utterances of this description, two are herein given.

Sir George Stephen, in his letter recently addressed to the shareholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, uses the following words:

"The present agitation in Winnipeg is chiefly damaging in its effects on the Province itself. The intemperate, sensational and ridiculous utterances of a section of the local press are printed and read abroad with alarm, and the effects upon emigration and upon the credit of every enterprise in the Province has already been most serious. Your directors believe, however, that this agitation, like those which have preceded it, will disappear as soon as the people of the country come to understand the facts and discover the motives of those by whom it was created."

W. C. VanHorne, the vice-president of the C. P. R. Co., used these words:

"There are a dozen or more men in Winnipeg, having a prominence of a certain kind, who are working for annexation because they think it will suit their personal ends, and when such men control an important section of the public press and succeed in working up a great public excitement there is danger that they may turn it in the direction they want it to go."

Of course these gentlemen ignore completely the existence of the resolutions passed by municipalities in all parts of Manitoba, condemning disallowance and encouraging the Manitoba Legislature to carry on the work of completing the Red River Valley road.

It is extremely advisable at this present time that the municipal councils in all parts of the Province should speak out again and repudiate the false assertions of the Canadian Pacific officials, so that the shareholders of that company will be placed in possession of the facts, contrary to the expectations of Sir George Stephen.

You will find enclosed a platform of the Manitoba Anti-Disallowance Association which is being largely subscribed to here, and it is our sincere hope that you will bring the matter before your council at once so that they can endorse the position taken therein by this Association, and the truth be made known to our friends in the east and in Great Britain.

If from any cause, it is impossible, at an early date, to get your council together, we beg to suggest that *you personally* give an endorsation of the platform presented, and that after having done so you organize a a branch association and get many true friends of Manitoba to sign the constitution, sending us as soon as possible a list of the members. The by-laws, of course, can be altered to suit the circumstances of your local case, and it is presumed you would not require any entrance fee as is required by the Winnipeg Branch which has printing and other expenses to meet.

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